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Silver Comedy



Middlesex
University

FUNNY THINGS HAPPEN AT THE GRANGE!

Introducing comedy activities in day services to older people with dementia through the making of a 'Mockumentary' on a visit by Her Majesty the Queen
Centre for Excellence for learning and teaching in Mental Health and Social Work

Presenting the Queen with a Coconut



Why did we do it?



The entertainment



Practicing a Royal Greeting



Older people are relatively marginalised within the involvement of service users in professional education. We sought to generate some learning materials for professionals about dementia using a co-productive approach. Comedy techniques were used to develop a bespoke programme for older people with dementia and their carers. Through comedy and film the project generated new insights to how we can work more effectively and optimistically with older people and their representatives in a creative and person centred way. The project built on older peoples knowledge and skills and helped them learn new ones



The Silver Comedy Team

Outcomes

A DVD s that can be used in the teaching and learning of professionals to stimulate discussion about the potential of people with dementia and to challenge stereotypes in a non-conventional way.

worked in teams with older people, as equals

- were free to think about issues in a more creative way
- were able to use humour to explore topics
- drew on knowledge of the intimacy and sexuality of their own families
- were free to explore issues through characters
- used 'vox pop' to approach a wide range of people to get varied answers from different points of view on the subject

How?

Four workshops were provided using an experiential and improvisatory process. Actors, students and directors only met for the first time at the workshops, which made the process very experiential and improvisatory.



One of the carers plays the part of the Queen



Partners...

This was a collaborative project between the social work department at Middlesex University, Haringey Older People's Services and Silver Comedy and was funded by the CETL at Middlesex University

Older participants:
Silver Comedy Team:

Project sponsored by Trish Hafford-Letchfield, Centre for Excellence in Mental Health and Social Work, Archway Campus, 2-10 Highgate Hill, London N11 3UA